

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 14 and 18 to 22 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 15 to 17 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to Claim 12~~, of blending plural radiographic images to form a blended composite radiographic image comprising:

applying a pixel value adjustment to each pixel of the composite image that is located within a stitching boundary of the composite image; and

adjusting values of other pixels in the composite image that are located within an area of adjustment that is adjacent to the stitching boundary, the adjustment area is determined based on a rate of change of an adjustment amount of the other pixels,

wherein the rate of change is dependent on boundary pixel values and on the pixel value adjustment made to the boundary pixels,

and wherein the rate of change is a decreasing rate.

16. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to Claim 15~~, of blending plural radiographic images to form a blended composite radiographic image comprising:

applying a pixel value adjustment to each pixel of the composite image that is located within a stitching boundary of the composite image; and

adjusting values of other pixels in the composite image that are located within an area of adjustment that is adjacent to the stitching boundary, the adjustment area is determined based on a rate of change of an adjustment amount of the other pixels,

wherein the rate of change is dependent on boundary pixel values and on the pixel value adjustment made to the boundary pixels,

and wherein the rate of change is a decreasing rate,

and wherein the rate of decrease in the adjustment amount increases as the pixel value difference increases.

17. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to Claim 15, of blending plural radiographic images to form a blended composite radiographic image comprising:~~

applying a pixel value adjustment to each pixel of the composite image that is located within a stitching boundary of the composite image; and

adjusting values of other pixels in the composite image that are located within an area of adjustment that is adjacent to the stitching boundary, the adjustment area is determined based on a rate of change of an adjustment amount of the other pixels,

wherein the rate of change is dependent on boundary pixel values and on the pixel value adjustment made to the boundary pixels,

and wherein the rate of change is a decreasing rate,

and wherein the rate of decrease in the adjustment amount decreases as the pixel value difference decreases.

18. to 22. (Cancelled)